May, 1981 and the Delhi High Court gave judgement on 31st August, 1987 and gave direction to the Government to give hearing to the company and review the prices. The job to review the prices of Betamethasone and its salt was assigned for the sake of convenience to the Murthy Committee as this Committee was already engaged at this point of time in a similar task in the 12 companies involved in the Supreme Court. This case is now being finally heard in the Delhi High Court and the matter is therefore sub-judice.

Fall in consumption of drugs

2933. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for decline in productien of Ranbaxy Labs. Ltd. bulk drugs produced from basic stages like Chlorampsenicol, Tetracycline Hcl, Ampicillin, Amoxicillin, Doxycycline, Gentamycin, Ranitidine, Cephalexin, Kenamycin, Sulphadiazine, Sulphamoxole and several other bulk drugs;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of these drugs are finding their way back ino the country and also that records of imports of inputs, their utilisation and exports are being manipulated;

(c) whether the consumption of these drugs in the formulations has also fallen; if not, what steps Government have taken for consumption in formulations; and

(d) what are the details in this regard and what follow up action has been taken to investigate overcharging of prices of medicines from the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (c) and (d) To the extent data is available there is a decline in production of these drugs in the organised sector in 1991-92 as compared to that of the previous year. This declining trend is seen in the production figures of M/s. Ranbaxy Labs. also for drugs in their production range. The reasons for such reduction could be due to various factors such as change in demand pattern, enhanced production in the SSI Sector, corporate strategy, import compression measures, introduction of newer drugs etc. However, no shortages of these drugs have been reported. Whenever any instance of a company selling a formulation at a price higher than that fixed by the Government comes to notice, the matter is taken up with the company or state Drug Controller for clarification|necessary action.

(b) As regards the records for imports of inputs, their utilisation and exports, the Director General of Foreign Trade Organisation ensures that the specified quantities of imports and exports are in order.

Tinidazole being outside prices control

2934. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for controlling price of Metronidazole and keeping Tinidazole outside price control;

(b) whether it is also a fact that cost of production of Tinidazole is less than the cost of production of Metronidazole but the formulations of the drugs are being sold at three times the price; and

(c) the reasons for such state of Affairs and what steps have been aken to look into the matter and bring down the price by bringing this drug under price control or otherwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The list